REMARKS

Claims 1 to 16 are pending this application of which claims 1, 6 and 11 are the independent claims. Claims 11 to 16 are new claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Goldwasser et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,737,921.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of displaying a video image of at least a portion of a virtual patient. The method includes accessing identification of a video file. The video file includes a series of video images that depicts virtual patient features over a range of the features. The method also includes determining an offset into the video file. The offset corresponds to one of the series of video images. The method further includes presenting the one of the series of video images that corresponds to the offset.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 1. In particular, Goldwasser does not disclose or suggest "determining an offset into the video file, the offset corresponding to one of the series of video images" where the series of video images "depicts virtual patient features over a range of said features."

More specifically, Goldwasser defines an offset as "a relative offset of the mini-image with respect to the combined image" (see column 19 lines 46-47). Goldwasser uses an offset to determine where a mini-image should be depicted within a combined image. Thus, Goldwasser's offset is merely a spatial orientation of where a slice of a mini-image is taken along Cartesian X, Y and/or Z directions (see column 14 lines 35-50 of Goldwasser). For example, taking a slice of a nose or an arm of a virtual patient image. Therefore, Goldwasser depicts only one shape of a body part but not a range of shapes. For example, depicting only one nose section of one shape instead of the same nose section with multiple shapes.

On the other hand, an offset described by the Applicants points to one video image of a patient from multiple patient images over a range. For example, a video image of a virtual

patient determined based on weight (see page line 29 to page 30 line 12 of the specification). In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request that claim 1 be allowed.

Since Claim 6 roughly corresponds to claim 1, Applicants believe claim 6 is allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.
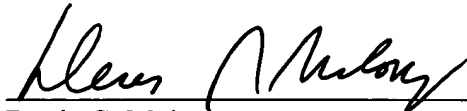
All correspondence should be directed to the below address. Applicants' attorney can be reached by telephone at the number shown below.

No fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket 11328-006001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/21/03

Denis G. Maloney
Reg. No. 29,670

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

20695088.doc